



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,403	12/05/2003	Lawrence E. Lyles	190250-1480	9580
38823 7590 09/12/2007 THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP/ AT&T BLS Intellectual Property, Inc. 100 GALLERIA PARKWAY SUITE 1750 ATLANTA, GA 30339			EXAMINER FRINK, JOHN MOORE	
			ART UNIT 2142	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/12/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/729,403

Applicant(s)

LYLES ET AL.

Examiner

John M. Frink

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 08/02/2007 regarding the validity of the BTAS User Documentation as a valid reference under 35 USC 102(b) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that no identification has been made regarding whether the BTAS documentation relates to an issue of in public use or on sale. However, Applicant's own Information Disclosure Statement, received 01/28/2005, states that "Applicant made and used a telecommunications assignment system" as described in the BTAS documentation. Therefore, an issue regarding public use is at least evidenced.

Applicant goes on to argue that no identification is made regarding what was in public use or on sale. However, as the previous Office Action makes clear, and Applicant's 01/28/2005 Information Disclosure Statement acknowledges, a telecommunications assignment system as described in the BTAS documentation was at least in public use.

Applicant also argues it was not shown if the public use or sale of said telecommunications assignment system was one or more year before the application date, and if said sale or use was in the United States, and whether the pending claims read on or are obvious over what was in public use or one sale.

Art Unit: 2142

Regarding the 'pending claims read on or are obvious over' matter, the purpose of the previous two actions were to illustrate this utilizing 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 rejections. Said rejections are repeated below.

Regarding the 'one or more year before the application date,' Applicant's own Information Disclosure Statement, received 01/28/2005, states that there was public use more than one year prior to the application date.

Regarding whether the use was in the United States, simply questioning whether the Office has proven use in the United States is not a persuasive argument that said use was not in the United States. Furthermore, BellSouth is a company based in the United States, which operates primarily, if not entirely, in the United States. Mere allegations, or in this case questions, cannot take the place of evidence.

Applicant then notes issues regarding the sale of a process compared with the sale of a product, as well as citing *In re Kollar*. Applicant's arguments are not persuasive.

Applicant next notes that a statement indicating that BTAS User Documentation was only available to BellSouth employees and contractors, and thus was not publicly accessible. This argument was addressed in the previous Office Action. Applicant's statement filed on January 28, 2005 was made only through Attorney argument. It is unclear how the attorney would have actual knowledge of non-disclosure agreements.

According to MPEP 11.1, Appendix R, actual knowledge may be inferred from circumstances. Applicant's attorney's circumstances in this case, including ability to

access said possible confidentiality agreements or have knowledge about possible commercial exploitation, is thus questionable.

For at least these reasons, Applicant's arguments cannot be held as persuasive regarding patentability.

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to 35 USC 102 rejections made in view of Wickham and 35 USC 103(a) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

3. Regarding Applicant's traversal of the Examiner's statements of Official Notices, references supporting said statements of Official Notice are provided. Use of said references is reflected in the below rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 9, 11, 13 – 15, 17, 19, 21 – 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the BTAS User Documentation, further in view of Reynolds et al. (US 2003/0126195 A1), hereafter Reynolds.

1. Regarding claim 1, BTAS discloses a telecommunications assignment system, comprising assignment logic operable to assign a plurality of telecommunications equipment and ports to a plurality of network elements, collection logic operable to receive a plurality of assignments from the assignment logic and store the assignments

Art Unit: 2142

in a database, and a graphical user interface operable to receive assignments from said database, and to display the assignments to a user in a graphical format which includes displaying the telecommunications equipment in a graphical format substantially similar to a physical construction of the telecommunications equipment (pg. 1 - 5).

BTAS does not disclose where the graphical format is displayed using a web interface.

Reynolds discloses graphical formats displayed using a web interfaces (Abstract, [0002]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the disclosure of BTAS with that of Reynolds in order to combine prior art elements (the BTAS system and web interfaces) according to known methods in order to yield predictable results (in this case, a system accessible via the internet).

2. Regarding claims 2 and 3, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose where the graphical user interface logic can display the plurality of network elements in a graphical format substantially similar to a physical construction of the network element as well as providing a graphical format to a remote client on a desktop computer associated with the user over a network (BTAS, pg. 1 and pg. 7 – 9).

3. Regarding claim 5, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose the system of claim 3 wherein the remote client is a telecommunications assignment system (pg. 1 and pg. 7 – 9).

4. Regarding claim 6, BTAS further discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the assignment logic is operable to remove assignments, add assignments, remove cards,

Art Unit: 2142

and add cards on the telecommunications equipment (BTAS, pg. 1, pg. 7 – 9, pg. 13 – 15, pg. 20 – 23 and pg. 33).

5. Regarding claim 7, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose the system of claim 6, wherein the assignment logic is operable to track cards installed in telecommunications equipment (BTAS, pg. 13 – 16).

6. Regarding claim 9, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose a method of assigning telecommunications equipment, comprising providing a graphical user interface to a user which comprises a plurality of telecommunications equipment and network elements which are displayed to the user in a format substantially similar to the physical construction of the telecommunications equipment, the graphical user interface being further operable to allow the user to make telecommunications equipment assignments using web interfaces (Reynolds, Abstract and [0002]); receiving telecommunications equipment assignments from the user via the graphical user interface, and storing the telecommunications equipment assignments received from the user in a database for later retrieval (BTAS, pg. 1, pg. 7 – 9, pg. 13 – 15 and pg. 20 – 23).

7. Regarding claim 11, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose the method of claim 9, further comprising providing the graphical user interface to a user over a network to a remote client associated with the user (BTAS, pg. 1 - 5).

8. Regarding claim 13, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose the method of claim 11, further comprising using a telecommunications assignment application as the remote client (pg. 1 – 5, pg. 20 – 23).

Art Unit: 2142

9. Regarding claim 14, BTAS further discloses the method of claim 9 where the graphical user interface is operable to allow the user to remove cards, add cards, remove assignments, and add assignments to the telecommunications equipment (pg. 1, pg. 7 – 9, pg. 13 – 15 and pg. 20 – 23, pg. 30 – 33).

10. Regarding claim 15, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose that said graphical user interface is operable to allow the user to change plug-in cards installed on the telecommunications equipment (BTAS pg. 13 – 15).

11. Regarding claim 17, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose a computer readable medium having a program for assigning telecommunications equipment, the program operable to provide a graphical user interface to a user, comprising a plurality of telecommunications equipment and network elements which are displayed to the user in a format specifically similar to the physical construction of the telecommunications equipment, the graphical user interface being operable to allow the user to make telecommunications assignments using web interfaces (Reynolds, Abstract and [0002]); receiving telecommunications equipment assignments from the user via the graphical user interface and storing the telecommunications equipment assignments received from the user in a database for later retrieval (BTAS, pg. 1, pg. 7 – 9, pg. 13 – 15 and pg. 20 – 23, pg. 30 – 33).

12. Regarding claim 19, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose providing the graphical user interface to the user over a network to a remote client associated with the user (BTAS pg. 1 – 5).

Art Unit: 2142

13. Regarding claim 21, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose using a telecommunications assignment application as the remote client (BTAS pg. 1 - 5).

14. Regarding claim 22, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose the graphical user interface being operable to allow the user to remove ports, remove assignments, and create alarms on the telecommunications equipment (BTAS pg. 25).

15. Regarding claim 23, BTAS in view of Reynolds further disclose the graphical user interface being operable to allow the user to change plug-in cards installed into the telecommunications equipment (BTAS pg. 1, pg. 7 – 9, pg. 13, pg. 25).

16. Claims 1 – 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 - 15, 17, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wickham et al. (US 6,307,546 B1), hereafter Wickham, further in view of Reynolds et al. (US 2003/0126195 A1), hereafter Reynolds.

17. Regarding claim 1, Wickham discloses a telecommunications assignment system, comprising assignment logic operable to assign a plurality of telecommunications equipment and ports to a plurality of network elements, collection logic operable to receive a plurality of assignments from the assignment logic and store the assignments in a database, and a graphical user interface operable to receive assignments from said database, and to display the assignments to a user in a graphical format which includes displaying the telecommunications equipment in a graphical format substantially similar to a physical construction of the telecommunications equipment (col. 2 lines 25 – 60, col. 11 lines 9 – 50, col. 13 lines 1 – 34, Fig. 7 and Fig. 8).

Wickham does not disclose where the graphical format is displayed using a web interface.

Reynolds discloses graphical formats displayed using a web interfaces (Abstract, [0002]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the disclosure of Wickham with that of Reynolds in order to combine prior art elements (Wickham's system and web interfaces) according to known methods in order to yield predictable results (in this case, a system accessible via the internet).

18. Regarding claims 2 and 3, Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose where the graphical user interface logic can display the plurality of network elements in a graphical format substantially similar to a physical construction of the network element as well as providing a graphical format to a remote client on a desktop computer associated with the user over a network (Wickham col. 2 lines 25 – 60, col. 11 lines 9 – 50, col. 13 lines 1 – 34, Fig. 7 and Fig. 8). Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose where the remote client is a telecommunications assignment system application (Wickham col. 2 lines 25 – 60, col. 11 lines 9 – 50, col. 13 lines 1 – 34, Fig. 7 and Fig. 8).

19. Regarding claim 6, Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose where the assignment logic is operable to remove assignments, add assignments, remove cards and add cards on the telecommunications equipment (Wickham col. 11 lines 9 - 60).

20. Regarding claim 7, Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose tracking cards installed in telecommunications equipment (Wickham col. 11 lines 9 – 60).

Art Unit: 2142

21. Regarding claim 9, Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose a method of assigning telecommunications equipment, comprising providing a graphical user interface to a user, the interface comprising a plurality of telecommunications equipment and network elements which are displayed to the user in a format substantially similar to the physical construction of the equipment, the interface further operable to allow the user to make telecommunications equipment assignments using web interfaces (Reynolds, Abstract and [0002]) receiving telecommunications equipment assignments from the user via the graphical user interface and storing the telecommunications equipment assignments receiving from the user in a database for later retrieval (Wickham, col. 2 lines 25 – 60, col. 11 lines 9 – 50, col. 13 lines 1 – 34, Fig. 7 and Fig. 8).

22. Regarding claim 11, Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose providing the graphical user interface to the user over a network to a remote client associated with the user (Wickham Fig. 6, Fig. 7, Fig. 8, Fig. 9).

23. Regarding claim 13, Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose using a telecommunications assignment application as the remote client (Wickham col. 2 lines 25 – 60, col. 11 lines 9 – 60).

24. Regarding claim 14, Wickham et al. further discloses where the graphical user interface is operable to allow the user to remove cards, add cards, remove assignments, and add assignments on the telecommunications equipment (Wickham Fig. 6, Fig. 8, Fig. 9).

Art Unit: 2142

25. Regarding claim 15, Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose where the graphical user interface is operable to allow the user to change the plug-in cards installed in the telecommunications equipment (Wickham Fig. 6, Fig. 8, Fig. 9).

26. Regarding claim 17, Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose a computer readable medium having a program for assigning telecommunications equipment, the program operable to provide a graphical user interface to a user, comprising a plurality of telecommunications equipment and network elements which are displayed to the user in a format specifically similar to the physical construction of the telecommunications equipment, the graphical user interface being operable to allow the user to make telecommunications assignments using web interfaces (Reynolds, Abstract and [0002]); receiving telecommunications equipment assignments from the user via the graphical user interface and storing the telecommunications equipment assignments received from the user in a database for later retrieval (Wickham, col. 11 lines 9 – 67 and col. 12 lines 1 – 30).

27. Regarding claim 19, Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose providing a graphical user interface to the user over a network to a remote client associated with the user (Wickham col. 11 lines 9 – 67 and col. 12 lines 1 – 30).

28. Regarding claim 21, Wickham in view of Reynolds further disclose the program of claim 19 further comprising using a telecommunications assignment application as the remote client (Wickham col. 11 lines 9 – 67 and col. 12 lines 1 – 30).

29. Claims 4, 12 and 20, are rejected rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wickham in view of Reynolds as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Goodwin (6,970,851 B1).

Wickham in view of Reynolds disclose the system of claims 3, 11 and 19 (col. 2 lines 25 – 60, col. 11 lines 9 – 50, col. 13 lines 1 – 34, Fig. 7 and Fig. 8).

Wickham in view of Reynolds do not disclose where the remote client is a web browser operable to view any plurality of web formats.

Goodwin (6,970,851 B1) discloses a web-browser operable to view any of a plurality of web formats (col. 4 lines 4 – 23).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Wickham in view of Reynolds with that of Goodwin in order to access the telecommunications assignment system of claim 3 with a web browser in order allow users to access it from more locations more easily, as specialized software does not need to be installed in order to use applications via a web browser.

30. Claims 10 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wickham in view of Reynolds as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Zimmer et al. (US 2003/0051226 A1).

Wickham in view of Reynolds disclose including the format for the telecommunications equipment and the network elements display in a database (col. 2 lines 25 – 60, col. 11 lines 9 – 50, col. 13 lines 1 – 34, Fig. 7 and Fig. 8).

Wickham in view of Reynolds do not disclose where the format for the telecommunications equipment and the network elements display are stored in the same database with as the telecommunications equipment assignments.

Zimmer et al. discloses where a database can be used to store a variety of types of information ([0051]).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the disclosure of Wickham in view of Reynolds with that of Zimmer et al. in order store a variety of types of information together, including the assignment information in the same database as the information relating to the telecommunications graphics, in order to provide for the simplest possible database arrangement. This provides for a database that would take less time to create and maintain when compared with other options, such as storing different pieces of data in separate databases.

31. Claim 8, 16 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wickham in view of Reynolds as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Edwards (5,590,360).

32. Regarding claim 8, Wickham in view of Reynolds disclose storing telecommunications data and telecommunications graphic format configurations (Wickham col. 11 lines 1 – 60, Fig. 6, Fig. 7, Fig. 8, Fig. 9). Furthermore, any database is inherently operable to store any type of information capable of being processed by a computer, which includes said telecommunications data and telecommunications graphic format configuration.

Wickham in view of Reynolds do not disclose a centralized database.

Edwards discloses a centralized database (Fig. 1).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wickham in view of Reynolds's storage of telecommunications data and graphics format configurations with the centralized database shown by Edwards in order to provide for the simplest possible data storage arrangement. A centralized database can take less time to create and maintain, and additionally is inherently easier to backup and to restore in the event of a failure due to its centralized nature.

33. Regarding claim 16, Wickham in view of Reynolds disclose providing assignment information and display information to the user (Wickham col. 11 lines 9 – 60 and Fig. 6, Fig. 7, Fig 8). Wickham in view of Reynolds also disclose storing such data, in addition to other data, in a database (Wickham col. 9 lines 5 – 33, col. 10 lines 35 – 63, Fig. 6). Furthermore, any database is inherently operable to store any type of information capable of being processed by a computer, which includes said assignment and display information.

Wickham in view of Reynolds do not disclose a centralized database.

Edwards discloses a centralized database (Fig. 1).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wickham in view of Reynolds's method of providing assignment and display information with the centralized database shown by Edwards in order to provide for the simplest possible data storage arrangement. A centralized database can take less time to create and maintain, and additionally is inherently easier to backup and to restore in the event of a failure due to its centralized nature.

Art Unit: 2142

34. Regarding claim 24, Wickham in view of Reynolds disclose the program of claim 17, as well as storing said assignments and other data in a database (Wickham col. 11 lines 9 – 67 and col. 12 lines 1 – 30), Furthermore, any database is inherently operable to store any type of information capable of being processed by a computer, which includes said assignment and display information.

Wickham in view of Reynolds do not disclose a centralized database.

Edwards discloses a centralized database (Fig. 1).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Wickham in view of Reynolds's method of claim 17 with the centralized database shown by Edwards in order to provide for the simplest possible data storage arrangement. A centralized database can take less time to create and maintain, and additionally is inherently easier to backup and to restore in the event of a failure due to its centralized nature.

35. Claim 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wickham in view of Reynolds as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Kidder et al. (US 6,445,774 B1).

Regarding claim 22, Wickham in view of Reynolds disclose the program of claim 17, where the graphical user interface is operable to allow the user to remove ports and to remove assignments (Wickham Fig. 6, Fig. 7 and Fig. 8, col. 11 line 9 through col. 12 line 30),

Wickham in view of Reynolds do not disclose creating alarms on the telecommunications equipment.

Kidder et al. disclose creating alarms on telecommunications equipment (Fig. 3, Fig. 4, Fig. 5, and Fig. 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the program disclosed by Wickham in view of Reynolds by adding the alarm creation means disclosed by Kidder et al. Wickham in view of Reynolds detail the management of alarms, including displaying alarms status (Wickham Fig. 6). Combining that with means to graphically allow users to create alarms extends the programs functionality in a way that would be expected by the user, as the said purpose of Wickham in view of Reynolds's tool is to aide in maintaining and provisions telecommunications services (col 1 lines 39 - 60). As Wickham et al.'s and Kidder et al.'s disclosures both show, alarms are an important part and thus a logical element in maintaining and provisioning telecommunications services.

6. Regarding claim 23, Wickham in view of Reynolds and Kidder et al. disclose the program of claim 22. Furthermore, Wickam et al. discloses a program with a graphical user interface operable to allow the user to change plug-in cards installed into telecommunications equipment (Wickham Fig. 8, col. 11 lines 9 - 60, col. 12 and col. 13).

7. Claims 4, 12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BTAS in view of Reynolds as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Jain et al. (US 2003/0224339 A1), hereafter Jain.

Regarding claims 4,12, and 20, BTAS discloses the system of claim 3 (pg. 1, pg. 7 - 9) claim 11 and claim 19 (pg. 1 - 5).

Art Unit: 2142

BTAS does not disclose where the remote client is a web browser operable to view any of a plurality of web formats.

Jain discloses a remote client that is a web browser (Abstract, [0014]), operable to view any of a plurality of web formats (Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to access the telecommunications assignment system of claim 3 with a web browser in order to provide a flexible viewing/interaction format that can be utilized by multiple types of devices.

8. Claims 10 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BTAS in view of Reynolds as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Song et al. (US 6,742,018 B1), hereafter Song.

BTAS in view of Reynolds disclose the method of claims 9 and 17, including the format for the telecommunications equipment and the network elements display in a database (BTAS pg. 1, pg. 7 – 9, pg. 13 – 15 and pg. 20 – 23).

BTAS does not disclose where the format for the telecommunications equipment and the network elements display are stored in the same database with as the telecommunications equipment assignments.

Song discloses storing related items in the same database (col. 4 lines 52-68), thus showing where the format for the telecommunications equipment and the network elements display are stored in the same database with as the telecommunications equipment assignments.

Art Unit: 2142

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to store the assignment information in the same database as the information relating to the telecommunications graphics in order to provide for the simplest possible database arrangement.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M. Frink whose telephone number is (571) 272-9686. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM - 5:00PM EST; off alternate Fridays.

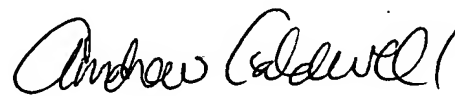
Art Unit: 2142

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571)272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

John Frink

(571) 272-9686

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Caldwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" and last name "Caldwell" clearly distinguishable.

ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER